

Title (en)

Apparatus and method for joining vehicle frame components

Title (de)

Vorrichtung und Verfahren zum Verbinden von Fahrzeugrahmenbauteilen

Title (fr)

Procédé et appareil pour lier des composants de châssis automobile

Publication

EP 1103333 A1 20010530 (EN)

Application

EP 00309659 A 20001101

Priority

US 45045899 A 19991129

Abstract (en)

An apparatus and method for joining two or more vehicle components together to form a joint in a vehicle body and frame assembly 10 is disclosed. The frame assembly 10 can include a pair of longitudinally extending side rails 11, 12 having a plurality of transverse cross members 13-15 extending therebetween. At least one of the side rails 11, 12 includes a portion 21 that is deformed inwardly to define a mounting projection 24 that is sized to receive an end of one of the cross members 13-15 therein. The mounting projection 24 is preferably formed having a first relatively large diameter portion 24a that is somewhat larger in diameter than the outer diameter of the end of the cross member 13-15 and a second relatively small diameter portion 24b that is only slightly larger in diameter than the outer diameter of the end of the cross member 13-15. An internal magnetic pulse welding inductor assembly 25 is inserted within the cross member 13-15 to generate an intense electromagnetic field. The presence of this electromagnetic field causes the end of the cross member 13-15 to expand outwardly into engagement with the first and second portions of the mounting projection 24a, b of the side rail at a high velocity. The high velocity impact of the end of the cross member 13-15 with the mounting projection 24a, b of the side rail 11, 12 causes some portions of the end of the cross member 13-15 and the mounting projection 24a, b of the side rail 11, 12 to weld or molecularly bond together, and causes other portions of the end of the cross member 13-15 and the mounting projection 24a, b of the side rail 11-12 to mechanically interlock or engage one another to form a joint for the vehicle body and frame assembly 10. <IMAGE>

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Citation (search report)

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